

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-9, 11, 12, 20-26 and 28-35 are currently pending in this application prior to entry of this Amendment After Final Rejection. By this amendment, claim 24 has been amended and claims 26 and 28-35 have been cancelled. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-9, 11-12 and 20-25 will remain pending

Applicants have amended the specification to insert a reference to the prior, U.S. provisional application from which this application claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119(e). Basis for this amendment can be found in the Declaration for Patent Application.


Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-9, 11, 12, 20-23 are allowed and that claims 24 and 25 would be allowable, if amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Specifically, the Examiner indicated “[T]he stent defined in claim 24, line 2 has already been defined in claim 1 resulting in a double recitation of the same part.” Applicants have amended claim 24 to recite “the stent” in order to overcome the rejection. Claim 25 depends from claim 24. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The Examiner also rejected claim 35 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants have cancelled claim 35 in order to obviate this rejection.

The Examiner rejected claims 26 and 28-35 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Tam et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,261,320). Although the applicants do not agree with these rejections, Applicants have cancelled claims 26 and 28-35, in order to obviate these rejections and place the present application in condition for allowance.

Upon entry of this amendment, it is considered that the application is in condition for allowance.
Favorable consideration, entry of the amendment and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin J. Dunleavy
Registration No. 32,024

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KNOBLE YOSHIDA & DUNLEAVY LLC
Eight Penn Center, Suite 1350
1628 John F. Kennedy Blvd.
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Direct Dial No.: (215) 599-0606
Facsimile No.: (215) 599-0601
e-mail: kjdunleavy@patentwise.com